

TRUST MATTERS

Department of the Interior
Office of the Special Trustee
for American Indians

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Advisory Board Members

The Advisory Board to the Special Trustee was established by statute with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act. The members of the Advisory Board help guide the progress of this unique trust.



Governor Bill Anoatubby

Chickasaw Nation Governor Bill Anoatubby has been a valued member of the Advisory Board for five years. His workload precludes him from continuing in this position. Special Trustee Ross Swimmer extends his thanks to Governor Anoatubby for input on issues that have been critical to improving the Indian trust. The Governor's thoughtful participation in meetings and his leadership have been greatly appreciated.

Special Trustee Swimmer asked Chairman Ron His Horse Is Thunder of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe to fill the vacancy on the Advisory Board. Chairman His Horse Is Thunder will attend his first Advisory Board meeting when it convenes in January 2009.

The nine-member Advisory Board, with links to resumes of the members, may be viewed on the OST website at www.doi.gov/ost/about_ost/board.html.

Mr. Bobby Brooks, Vice President and Property Manager , U.S. Trust, Bank of America

Mr. David English, Fratcher Missouri Endowed Professor of Law, University of Missouri - Columbia

Honorable Jim Gray, Principal Chief of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma

Honorable Ron His Horse Is Thunder, Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

Mr. Edward Holland, President and CEO, Chota Capital Company, LLC, and member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Honorable Fred Matt, Former Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Salish-Kootenai of the Flathead Reservation in Montana

Honorable Richard Milanovich, Chairman of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians in California

Mr. Loren "Bat" Pourier, Owner, Muddy Creek Oil and Gas, Inc., and member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe of South Dakota

Ms. Helen Sanders, Chairman, Allottees Association and Affiliated Tribes of the Quinault Reservation, and member of the Chehalis Tribe of Washington



Chairman Ron His
Horse Is Thunder



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Fractionation Update

Members of the Intertribal Monitoring Association (ITMA) have been working with tribes to generate solutions to the issue of fractionation, which happens when land is passed down over several generations and heirs receive smaller and smaller undivided interests in parcels of land. It is difficult for lands with fractionated ownership to be economically productive.

ITMA will report outcomes from this summer's meetings in the fall. The answer may be that there are multiple solutions, tailored to the needs of individual tribes and their members.

Managing a Workload Backlog

At the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), John White, Trust Reform Officer, traveled to Portland, Oregon, in May 2008 to the Northwest Regional Office

to work in conjunction with the Land Titles and Records Office (LTRO) manager, develop a plan to eliminate the LTRO's workload backlog.



The plan, which was provided to the Northwest Regional Office in August 2008, identifies the workload backlog by tasks. John used a tracking/projection tool

to calculate time estimates to complete each task. The plan is being used to determine the number of federal contractors that will be needed at the LTRO to assist with eliminating the workload backlog.

In addition, the plan proposes modifications to current Northwest Region business processes. If implemented, these modifications would help prevent future workload backlogs.

Planning for Transition



With the national election concluded, OST is developing transition documents to assist the next administration. In addition to the operational history, a plan for the future direction of the Indian trust will be part of the information provided.

More Debit Card Benefits

As of September 2008, any Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holder may apply for a Chase debit card. With a debit card, an account holder's IIM funds are transferred directly into the individual's debit card account. Those funds can be used immediately.



Now there are a larger number of ATMs at which to use your debit card. In addition to ATMs showing the Chase and Allpoint logos, Chase has added access to Washington Mutual (WaMu) and corporate 7/11 store ATMs. (ATMs at franchise 7/11 stores are not included. Further guidance will be made available to identify corporate store locations.)

More good news awaits account holders who choose to obtain a debit card because the fee structure has been revised.

- Each card holder may obtain one free replacement card a year. This is lowered from a \$5 fee to replace a card.
- Balance inquiry fees at ATMs have been reduced from 75 cents to 45 cents per inquiry. (Phone inquiries continue to be free.)
- Each card holder is allowed one free withdrawal for each deposit to their account. This carries over for one month. For example, if two deposits are made to an account in a month, two withdrawals are free. If the card holder only makes one withdrawal that month, the second free withdrawal will still be available during the following month, in addition to free withdrawals for new deposits that month.
- Card holders have the *new* option of paying bills online (there is a 75 cent fee per transaction).

To apply for a debit card, contact your Fiduciary Trust Officer or call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll free, at 1-888-678-6836. For more information, visit the OST website at <http://www.doi.gov/ost/iim/debit.html>. Applicants must reside in the United States.

Note: When you provide enrollment information, please include all requested data in order to participate.

Fiduciary Trust Officer Goes to School

Always brainstorming new ways to locate Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders, the Pacific Region Fiduciary Trust Officer and her staff decided to attend cultural events at local universities. They started this outreach effort by attending a powwow at Stanford University.

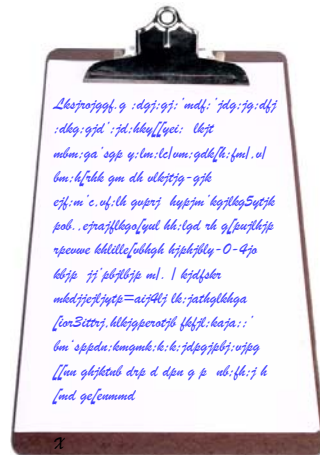
Students, professors, dancers, vendors, and others all came to the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians' (OST) booth for information. The staff, having partnered with a BIA Realty Specialist, provided answers about trust assets and trust lands.

After this two day event, the staff had collected over ten pages of sign-in sheets and 20 completed

forms for Whereabouts Unknown, who are IIM account holders without current name and address information on file.

The FTO and her team are calling other universities in order to participate in their Indian programs and to let them know about the OST office in Sacramento.

Find your FTO by visiting the OST website and accessing either the map or the list at <http://www.doi.gov/ost/information/individualfinder.html>. For more information, call the Trust Beneficiary Call Center, toll free, at 1-888-678-6836. The TBCC operates six days a week—Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon, Mountain Time.



Trust Assets Afire

Seeing wildfire in Indian Country is both frightening and fascinating. When fire threatens life, property or cultural resources, the results can be tragic. When wildfire is not a threat, it can be fascinating and an effective process for restoring and sustaining cultural landscapes. That is why federal agencies work with tribes to ensure there is a plan to address wildland fire when it is desired as a management action *or* when suppression is needed to protect trust assets and Indian communities.

The 2001 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy mandates that a fire management plan be in place for every burnable acre. Because fire can be so controversial in the public's eye, most tribal councils or their natural resource planning staffs are involved in the development of fire management plans.

Burning landscapes is not new to Indian people; indigenous use of fire was practiced extensively for a variety of purposes. Today, reintroduction of fire to restore cultural landscapes is more science-based. Fire management specialists have extensive

training and education in prescribed fire, wildfire suppression, and the use of wildfire to meet resource benefits. All these skill sets are required to assure trust assets are managed and protected and tribal resource objectives are met.



Application of a prescribed fire to reduce fuel loading and wildfire potential around cultural grounds on the Osage Indian Reservation.

Whenever trust assets are involved, the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) is paying attention. To learn more about protecting tribal assets, contact Dalan Romero, with Fire Operations for the BIA at the National Interagency Fire Center, on 208-387-5372.

Reaching Beneficiaries Through Media Coverage

Fiduciary Trust Officer (FTO) Tim LaPointe, Great Lakes Agency, had important messages for Individual Indian Money (IIM) account holders. In September, Tim participated in outreach events in Chicago



OST Account Technician Melissa Riley (right) assisting Whereabouts Unknown account holders at the Rosebud Fair and Wacipi, Rosebud, South Dakota.

and Milwaukee. Along with Regional Trust Administrator (RTA) Cathy Rugen, Rocky Mountain Region, and RTA Jim James, Great Plains and Eastern Regions, Tim met with tribal elders and individual beneficiaries during the events.

Working alongside BIA personnel, the focus was to answer

beneficiaries' questions about the Indian trust. Tim had the help of the media to get his messages across. Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) personnel were interviewed by reporters from local tribal and general newspapers and radio stations.

Good media coverage made a difference in North Dakota in October when OST, partnering with the First Nations Development Institute, a Native non-profit organization, presented financial management workshops. Oil production, which is on the rise in North Dakota, has translated into more income for tribal members. The Tribal government of the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation invited trust specialists with the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) to provide training on the topic of fundamental personal financial skills and concepts to members of the tribe.



Shawn Spruce (left), a trainer with First Nations, performed a Financial Literacy learning exercise with a Three Affiliated Tribal member at Twin Buttes, North Dakota.

Working with FTO Austin Gillette, Fort Berthold Agency, and FTO James Cordry, Rosebud Agency, the media helped OST spread the word.

Radio and television interviews, as well as public service announcements, aired in San Francisco when FTO Diana Wuerth, Pacific Region, and her staff partnered with the Association of American Indians, Inc., Friendship House in the Mission District to reach the Bay area audience. According to the 2000 census, California, with over 100 tribes, is the state with the largest population of American Indians. A significant number of American Indians live in the San Francisco area.



Left to right: Kevin Sanders, BIA Social Services Officer, FTO Diana Wuerth, Special Trustee Swimmer, Accounting Technician La Homa Savala, RTA Jim James, Accounts Maintenance Technician Nathanael Grinnell at the Pacific Region's San Francisco outreach.

Ken Wilson, a Tribal Liaison from the Bureau of Land Management, joined staff at the OST booth. Ken answered beneficiaries' questions about federal and Indian lands. Providing answers to beneficiaries and finding IIM account holders are high among OST's goals.

More outreach occurred in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in October when OST staffed a booth at the National Urban Indian Family Coalition 2008 National Conference. Additional events are being planned. Find out what the FTO in your area is planning. The complete list of FTOs is available on the OST website at <http://www.doi.gov/ost/information/individualfinder.html>. Just access your location on the handy map.



Special Trustee Swimmer (right) and FTO Diana Wuerth (second from left) answer beneficiaries' questions.

To learn more about media coverage of OST events, please call OST's Office of External Affairs at 202-208-4289.